

Senator Goldwater

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Criticism and analysis are important ingredients in making our democracy work. However, we are now approaching the point where both are being abused to the point of self-destruction.

I submit we must get out of the morass of doubt and pessimism into which we have sunk.

We must not let the quarrels of the past interfere with building for the future.

A tidal wave of criticism has swept over the intelligence community of our Country -- much of which is mistaken or unwarranted.

The damage is severe. If it continues, our survival is uncertain.

Before this committee have appeared men of the CIA both on active duty and retired. All have been impressive because of their dedication and loyalty.

Nothing we have heard detracts from the reputation of the CIA as a highly competent organization.

The men and women of the CIA are doing a great job under very trying conditions. And I say to them: As our Nation gets back on course, I believe there will be change for the better and ask you to hold on until that happens. You were never more needed by this Country than right now. We are proud of you.

To those young people who may be looking for careers, and who have a desire for public service, I can think of no better way to serve your Nation than as an intelligence officer. Many skills are required to keep the CIA a useful and productive organization. Continuity is vital to America.

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*HC*

FROM:

CHARLES F. LOMBARD

September 16

George:

For your information. This was  
the statement delivered at the Select  
Committee's first open hearing.

Charles F. Lombard

Enclosure

*Chas*